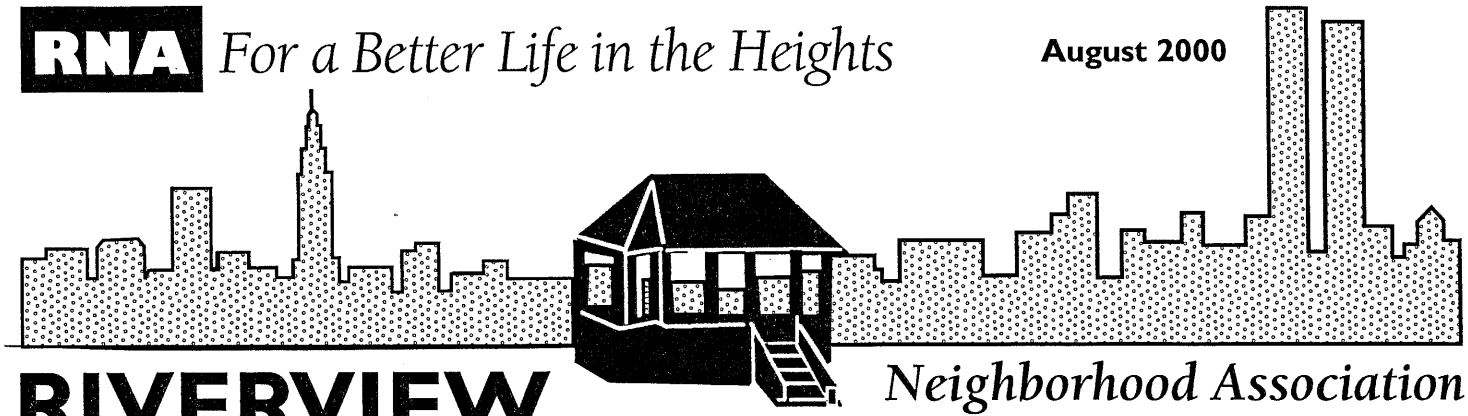
RNA *For a Better Life in the Heights*

August 2000



RIVERVIEW *Neighborhood Association*

232 Ogden Avenue • Jersey City, NJ 07307 • 201 798 0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION or ELECTED OFFICIAL

COMMUNITY UPDATES:

Millennium Towers:

On July 12th, **Hoboken's City Council** unanimously voted to sue Jersey City over the Millennium Towers project because of it's negative impact on local traffic and regional planning. The lawsuit will challenge the recent actions of Jersey City's Planning Board and City Council in approving this controversial hi-rise proposal to build two 43 story towers below the Palisade cliffs on the Jersey City-Hoboken border. Attorney **Hugh B. McCluskey** will represent the City of Hoboken in this litigation.

Recently representatives of **RNA, Sgt. Anthony Park Association** and The **Coalition for a Better Waterfront** *(CBW)* met with their own counsel, **Michael Pane**, a well-known land-use attorney, and Mr. McCluskey to discuss the need to file a separate taxpayers lawsuit. The CBW has agreed to be named as a plaintiff. RNA executives have agreed that our group should also be named a plaintiff in order to represent Jersey City taxpayers opposed to this project.

At our August 8th monthly meeting, members of RNA will be asked to vote on its participation as a plaintiff in this lawsuit against Jersey City.

All interested members should attend this meeting to join in this important dialogue and to express their opinions.

In the fall, RNA will organize a series of fund raising events in support of this activity. Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation to pay for our attorney, planner and other expenses, should send their checks to RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, N.J. 07307 *(All donations should be identified with "MTP" on the check.)*

122-124 Ogden Ave. Development:

On Thursday, August 3rd, the RNA Planning and Development Committee will meet with **Claire Davis** of the City's Planning Division to discuss this proposed development. The project calls for a four story apartment complex with seven 2BR units and a seven vehicle garage. The developers must apply for seven variances from the required zoning requirements of density, lot coverage, lot width and rear and side setbacks. Although the site is located in a R-4 (residential hi-rise) zone, the project is too large for the two lots on which it would be built. The Planning Division is concerned that this project will not comply with the newly enacted Master Plan which recommends that the surrounding neighborhood be rezoned to an R-2 (residential two-family) designation. The City has therefore recommended instead that two townhouses units be built, not requiring any variances. Last month, RNA met with the two developers to discuss their project. **All local neighbors and interested parties should attend the 8/3 meeting at 7:00 PM on the 2nd floor conference room at the Harbor View Health Care Facility.**

Save the Palisades:

On July 25th, members of the Palisade Avenue Steering Committee met with City representatives: **Anne Marie Uebbing**, the Director of the Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED), Planning Director **Robert Cotter** and Chief of Staff **Thomas Gallagher**. The community's agenda focused on the need to limit all future development below our community by 1) the drafting of a steep slope ordinance to protect the Palisade cliffs and 2) the rezoning of the land below the cliff from industrial to low-rise residential and commercial designations. Although the City agreed with the need for a steep slope ordinance, it is apparent that they also believe that the area below the cliffs should be designated a redevelopment zone to properly develop it.

On July 28th, Mr. Cotter sent a draft of a steep slope ordinance to the community for review and comment. According to Cotter, the City would attempt to enact this legislation in fairly quick fashion. On **August 8th**, the Planning Board will consider the ordinance and recommend it for approval by the City Council. On **August 16th**, the Council would then introduce the ordinance for its first reading. And finally, on **September 13th,** Council would take a final vote on its approval.

After an initial review of the Cotter draft, RNA recommends that this ordinance be amended to provide specific setback and view corridor protections. All interested parties are urged to participate in these important meetings to protect our community.

The Palisade Avenue Steering Committee

On July 24th, **HED** representatives met with local residents to explain the guidelines of a federally-funded grant program available to financially eligible homeowners in the following targeted areas: Palisade and Webster Avenues between Griffith and Franklin Streets and Palisade Avenue between Franklin and Ferry Streets. Grants of up to $10,000.00 are being offered to address building code violations and health and safety concerns.

Applications will be available in September. Homeowners must provide the following proofs: a property deed, income verification, payment of real estate taxes, homeowners insurance and no outstanding liens. For grant applications and more information, call **Deloris Ransom** at (201) 547-4875.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

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FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

Enjoy Your Parks!

Send help
Keep them
Clean!

Spend a summer evening with RNA
at our next meeting on
Tuesday, August 8th at 7:15 PM

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Shakespeare *in the Park*

Shakespeare's renowned comedy, **Much Ado About Nothing** will be the final production of the Company's summer repertoire. The performance, scheduled for **Tuesday, August 22nd**, will begin at **7:00 PM**. Admission is free. The production will take place in the middle of the Park around the center gardens.

On July 25th, Iago and Desdemona transformed the center gardens of Riverview-Fisk Park into medieval Venice in the **Hudson Shakespeare Company**'s production of Othello. The audience of local residents, both young and old were riveted by the play's intrigue and expressed their approval with overwhelming applause. For further information, call **(201) 420-2207**.

RNA MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, August 8th at 7:15 PM
Harbor View Health Care Facility
(the corner of Ogden and Franklin).

Gazebo Concert Series

Special free events are scheduled in Riverview-Fisk Park on the following Wednesdays in August:
16th: **Kennedy Dancers:** *modern dance*
30th: **Salsa En Fuego:** *progressive latin band*
All performances will begin at 6 PM.
For more information, call **547-5406**.

CERAMIC TILE PROJECT

400 tiles are needed for the first phase of this special community project. A ceramic tile wall will be installed at the northern overlook structure of Riverview-Fisk Park above Holland St. So far, over 150 tiles have already been made by local children and adults.

In August, this project will be scheduled with the following coming events:

Wednesday, 8/9: **Storytelling** and **Henna Hand Painting**;

Wednesday, 8/16: **Kennedy Dancers**;

Sunday, 8/20: **Reptile Show** snakes, turtles and lizards.

For more info, call **798-4235**.

Yoga with Jackie:
Rejuvenate yourself by stretching your body and relaxing your mind. All levels welcome. Tuesday nights starting at 7 PM. Fee: $8.00/class. Palisade Avenue. *(Also free meditation classes on Wednesday nights.)* For more info, call (201) 610-0920.

Green Market
RNA would like to set up a farmer's market in Riverview-Fisk Park for next year. These markets, which sell fresh garden produce, flowers and baked goods, have been successfully set up in several locations throughout Jersey City and Hoboken. Anyone interested in signing up to organize this project should come to the August 8th meeting.

Watch for Special Events *on the*
Community Bulletin Board
A Community Bulletin Board has been installed in the children's playground of Riverview-Fisk Park, off the corner of Palisade Avenue and Bower Street. The Board will be used by community groups to publicize special events and monthly meetings.